Message Text

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UNCLAS PANAMA 1087

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR. PN

SUBJECT: TORRIJOS INSTRUCTS TREATY NEGOTIATORS

- 1. TODAY, FEBRUARY 14, CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT TORRIJOS ON NATIONAL TELEVISION MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENTS. FULL TEXT FOLLOWS:
- 2. QUOTE WE ARE MEETING HERE IN ORDER TO COORDINATE THE WORK OF THE OFFICIALS, OR THE TEAM, THAT WILL LEAVE TOMORROW FOR CONTADORA ISLAND TO REPRESENT THE POSITION OF THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE AND THE NATIONAL GUARD STAFF AND IN ORDER TO HAVE THE NEW NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, NICOLAS GONZALEZ -REVILLA, PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST TEAM MEETING AND TO EXPLAIN HOW OUR WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THIS AND IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS.

FOREIGN MINSITER NICOLAS GONZALEZ REVILLA WILL GO TO CONTADORA ONLY WHEN IT IS STRICTLY NECESSARY. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE AN AIR FORCE PLANE READY AT CONTADORA SO THAT THE TEAM OR PART OF THE TEAM MAY ALWAYS COME FOR CONSULTATIONS TO A PLACE WHERE WE CAN ALWAYS BE REACHED.

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LET US FACE THIS HISTORIC ROUND OF TALKS WITH THE PHILOSPHY THAT OPTIMISM SHOULD NOT BE GREATER THAN THAN THE REALITY OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN CONTADORA ALLOWS.

I THINK THAT WE ARE IN FACT CLOSE TO CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT SINCE OUR POSITION IS VERY REASONABLE. WE ARE SPEAKING ABOUT A TREATY THAT WILL END IN THE

YEAR 2000 AND OF A NEUTRALITY THAT MUST BE GUARANTEED BY THE UNITED NATIONS. THESE TWO POSTIONS ARE CONSIDERED BY WORLD PUBLIC OPINION AS BEING VERY REASONABLE, ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME IN WORLD HISTORY WHEN NO ONE SIGNS A TREATY THAT LASTS MORE THAN 5, 6, 7 YEARS AT THE MOST.

AT THIS ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, WE WILL STILL REFUSE TO DISCUSS ANY ANNUAL MONETARY PAYMENT FOR THE CANAL.

I BELIEVE THAT WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND OTHERS THAT WE WILL GIVE OUR NEGOTIATORS IN PRIVATE OUR TEAM WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY WELL PREPARED AND WILL HAVE THE AUTHORITY AND POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING POWERS TO ACCOMPLISH THINGS. UNQUOTE.

JORDEN

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